

Frequently Asked Questions:

General questions about the Beach Guardian program:

1. Can I adopt a mile of beach if I'm by myself?

Yes. You can adopt as an individual although we recommend that having more than one person at the beach is beneficial in completing the data cards.

2. Do I choose a mile of beach or am I assigned one?

We encourage you to choose a mile of beach on your own. Ideally, you'd want to choose a beach that you frequently visit so that you can establish a feeling of stewardship over that location every time you conduct a visit. However, if you can't decide on a beach, please contact us to help you find one.

3. Am I the only adopter at my beach or will there be other volunteers at my adopted area?

On official Adopt-A-Beach cleanup days, there will be other volunteers on your mile designation. Also, some of the more popular beach locations are harder for groups to secure. We often ask groups to share a mile of beach together when this is a problem.

4. What is the minimum age requirement to participate in the Beach Guardian program?

There is no minimum age requirement as long as anyone under the age of 18 is accompanied by a parent, guardian or chaperone. We require all volunteers who participate in an Adopt-A-Beach event to sign a **registration/liability waiver** form, and if they are under 18 they must have a parent or guardian sign for them.

5. Can I adopt more than one mile of beach?

Yes, there is no limit to how many beaches you can adopt. Often times, large groups will adopt in two mile increments.

6. Do I have to pay to get involved?

No, a donation is not necessary to participate in the program. However, donations are always appreciated. You may **donate online** at texasadoptabeach.org or mail a check to Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach program, P.O. Box 12873, Austin Texas 78711.

7. Who is in charge of my local beach?

Generally beach authorities are responsible for managing public beaches. Beach authorities can be found at the local, state and national level –for example, city and county park districts, parks & recreation departments, state parks, national parks service to name a few. Your main contact for your adopted stretch of beach is your local Adopt-A-Beach site coordinator. Your mile of beach falls under their care and oversight. Please work with them prior to your cleanups to ensure that your trash bags are removed from the beach once you are done.

8. Do I need to contact my local coordinator before my visit to let them know that I'm going out to the beach?

We always recommend you contact your local coordinator to establish good relationships with them. They can instruct you on where to leave your bags once you are done cleaning the beach. We also recommend that you visit your beach beforehand, especially if you are new to the area, to familiarize yourself with local information such as parking requirements, bathroom facilities, pet policies, etc.

9. If my mile is located within a park which requires an entrance fee – or in an area that requires a beach permit, must I pay to enter the park or buy a beach permit?

You should not have to pay an entrance fee or buy a beach permit to go and clean the beach. Most local beach authorities waive the entrance fee and beach permit requirements on our official beach cleanup days in April and September. However, if you are approached to pay a fee or purchase a permit – either on beach cleanup day or at a time that you are out to clean your mile, please show your data card and clean up supplies as proof that you are there to clean the beach.

10. Do I need to bring my own supplies?

Contact your local Adopt-A-Beach coordinator or the Texas General Land Office for supplies prior to your cleanup. Trash bags, non-latex gloves, data cards and pencils are provided for volunteers. We ask that you let us know about your third cleanup and any other beach visits at least two weeks in advance to make sure that you have plenty of supplies and that we can arrange for trash bag pick up once you're done cleaning the beach.

11. Where do I put the trash?

Your local site coordinator will direct you on where to leave the bags. If you are unable to reach your local coordinator prior to your event, locate a trash receptacle at or near your location, to place your bags in and around the receptacle once finished cleaning the beach.

12. What if it is raining on the day of my cleanup?

The decision is up to you. Most groups will clean the beach during a light rain. In the case of thunder and lightning, we highly recommend that you cancel your visit and reschedule your trip. We encourage all Beach Guardians to always prioritize the safety of the volunteers first.

If you still need assistance after reading this information, please email the Adopt-A-Beach program or call 1-877-TXCOAST (892-6278).